

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:  
determining a cost metric associated with displaying information from at least one source; and  
5 determining a display configuration for displaying the information from the at least one source based at least on the cost metric.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein determining a display configuration comprises:  
determining a plurality of display configurations for displaying the information  
10 from the at least one source;  
evaluating each of the display configurations based at least on the cost metric; and  
selecting one of the plurality of display configurations based on the evaluation.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein evaluating each of the display configurations  
15 comprises:  
evaluating each of the configurations based on a plurality of metrics, the plurality of metrics including at least some of a usage metric, a power consumption metric, a lifetime metric, and the cost metric.
- 20 4. The method of claim 3, further comprising:  
determining the usage metric using a usage model, wherein the usage model includes an analysis of usage patterns for a display.

5. The method of claim 3, further comprising:  
determining the power consumption metric using a power consumption model,  
wherein the power consumption model includes an analysis of power consumption data  
for a display.
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6. The method of claim 3, further comprising:  
determining the lifetime metric using a lifetime model, wherein the lifetime model  
includes an analysis of lifetime data for a display.
- 10 7. The method of claim 3, further comprising:  
determining the cost metric using a cost model, wherein the cost model includes an  
analysis of predetermined factors associated with using the display and a relation of the  
factors to monetary costs.
- 15 8. The method of claim 3, wherein evaluating each of the configurations comprises:  
using an algorithm weighting the plurality of metrics to evaluate each of the  
configurations.
9. The method of claim 2, wherein evaluating each of the configurations comprises:  
20 evaluating each of the configurations based at least on the cost metric and source  
display settings received from the at least one source.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
generating the display configuration on a display.
11. The method of claim 10, wherein the at least one source comprises a plurality of  
5 sources, the method further comprising:  
receiving information from the plurality of sources; and  
the step of generating the display configuration comprises generating the display  
configuration, wherein the display configuration includes a plurality of windows, each  
window being associated with one of the plurality of sources.
- 10 12. The method of claim 11, wherein the step of determining a cost metric associated  
with displaying information from at least one source comprises determining a cost metric  
for each of the plurality of windows.
- 15 13. The method of claim 1, wherein the cost metric is associated with at least one of a  
cost of using a display and display operating costs for displaying the information from the  
at least one source.
14. The method of claim 1, wherein the display configuration comprises a visual  
20 representation of the information from the at least one source provided on a display.

15. A method of displaying information on a display, the method comprising:  
determining a plurality of display configurations for displaying information from  
least one source using at least a cost metric;  
evaluating each of the display configurations based at least on the cost metric;  
5 selecting one of the plurality of display configurations based on the evaluation; and  
providing the display configuration on the display.
16. The method of claim 15, further comprising:  
determining the cost metric, wherein the cost metric is related to one of operational  
10 costs and cost of using the display.
17. The method of claim 15, wherein determining a plurality of display configurations  
comprises:  
determining a plurality of display configurations for displaying information from  
15 least one source using a plurality of metrics, the plurality of metrics including the cost  
metric and at least one of a usage metric, a power consumption metric, and a lifetime  
metric; and  
the step of evaluating each of the display configurations comprises evaluating each  
of the display configurations based on the plurality of metrics.  
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18. The method of claim 15, wherein evaluating each of the display configurations  
comprises:

ranking each of the display configurations based on an algorithm weighting the plurality of metrics for each of the display configurations.

19. The method of claim 15, wherein the display configuration comprises a visual  
5 representation of the information from the at least one source provided on a display.

20. An apparatus comprising:  
means for receiving information from at least one source;  
means for determining a plurality of display configurations for displaying  
10 information from the least one source using at least a cost metric; and  
means for selecting one of the plurality of display configurations based at least one  
the cost metric.

21. The apparatus of claim 20, further comprising:  
15 means for displaying the information from the at least one source in the selected  
display configuration.

22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the means for selecting comprises:  
means for selecting one of the plurality of display configurations based on a  
20 plurality of metrics including the cost metric.

23. The apparatus of claim 20, further comprising:  
means for evaluating each of the display configurations using the plurality of metrics.
- 5 24. Computer software embedded on a computer readable medium, the computer software comprising instructions of:  
determining a cost metric associated with displaying information from at least one source; and  
determining a display configuration for displaying the information from the at least  
10 one source based at least on the cost metric.
25. The computer software of claim 24 wherein instructions of determining a display configuration comprise instructions of:  
determining a plurality of display configurations for displaying the information  
15 from the at least one source;  
evaluating each of the display configurations based at least on the cost metric; and  
selecting one of the plurality of display configurations based on the evaluation.
26. The computer software of claim 24 wherein instructions of evaluating each of the  
20 display configurations comprises instructions of:  
evaluating each of the configurations based on a plurality of metrics, the plurality of metrics including at least some of a usage metric, a power consumption metric, a lifetime metric, and the cost metric.

27. A computing system comprising:
- at least one interface operable to receive information from at least one source;
  - a display operable to display a display configuration of the information, the display configuration being a visual representation of the information on the display; and
  - 5 a processor operable to select the display configuration from a plurality of possible display configurations of the information based on a cost metric associated with displaying the display configuration.